

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-36 are pending, in which claims 1 and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2, 5-6, 7-10, 12, 14-18, 20, 24-25, 27-28, 30, and 32-36 are currently amended, and claims 37 and 38 are newly presented. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed March 24, 2004 rejected claims 1-6, 9, 19-24, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Hammer et al.* (US 5,058,056), claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 25, 26, 28 and 29 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Hammer et al.* in view of *Gai et al.* (US 6,167,445), claims 12, 13, 30 and 31 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Hammer et al.* in view of *Bullock et al.* (US 6,631,414), and claims 14-18 and 32-36 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Hammer et al.* in view of *Bowman-Amuah* (US 6,442,547). Also, claims 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants have amended the Specification with respect to the noted informalities.

In view of the amendment to claims 5 and 8, Applicants believe the §112, second paragraph rejection for indefiniteness is overcome. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

To advance prosecution, independent claims 1 and 19 have been canceled, and new independent claims 37 and 38 are presented. Independent claim 37 is drawn to an “external processor for a network access system having a programmable access device,” and recites “**a message processor configured to parse a message for determining a type of communication service; a service controller configured to receive the message if the type of communication service corresponds to the service controller, wherein the service controller**

determines a policy based on the message and generates a control signal according to the policy; and a programmable access device (PAD) controller configured to receive the control signal for configuring a PAD to enforce the policy with respect to a network connection between a first network and a second network.” (See e.g., Figures 2 and 4; Specification, pages 16-19). New independent claim 38 is directed to “method of providing network access system with an external processor having a programmable access device,” and recites, “receiving a network message and **parsing the message to determine a type of communication service with a network processor** of the external processor; determining a policy in response to the message with a service controller of the external processor; generating and transmitting a control signal according to the policy; and establishing a configuration of a programmable access device (PAD) to enforce the policy using the control signal with a PAD controller of the external processor in order to connect a first network and a second network.”

By contrast, *Hammer et al.* discloses a system for providing the ability to attach workstations to multiple computers to provide high availability of system resources to the workstation users. A primary workstation controller is connected to a primary host computer and to a plurality of workstations. A secondary workstation controller is connected to a secondary host computer and is also connected to the plurality of workstations in a manner to be pollable by the primary workstation controller (col. 1: 47-50).

The cited passages of col. 2: 55-68 and col. 3: 1-29 of *Hammer et al.*, at best, merely describe, in general terms, a series of data processing sequences for controlling multiple workstations. For example, a close study of the *Hammer et al.* system, per col. 3: 10-22, reveals that the workstation controllers 40 and 400 (FIG. 1) operate to load the poll list, and

provide no capability to “**parse a message for determining a type of communication service.**”

As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference, based on the foregoing, it is clear that *Hammer et al.* fails to teach the features of independent claims 37 and 38. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

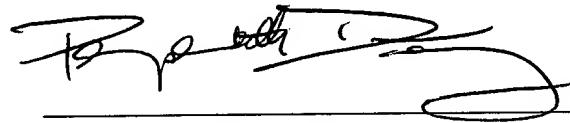
With respect to the obviousness rejections, the addition of *Gai et al.*, *Bullock et al.*, and *Bowman-Amuah*, does not cure deficiencies of *Hammer et al.* The secondary reference of *Gai et al.* is applied for a supposed teaching of policy servers (Office Action, page 6). *Bullock et al.* is cited as supposedly teaching of a job event handler that ends and deletes a TCP session in response to a session activity level (Office Action, page 8). *Bowman-Amuah* is applied for a supposed teaching a conference call service controller (Office Action, page 9). Accordingly, the various obviousness rejections are unsustainable.

Therefore, the present application, as amended claims, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date



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